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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Advanced Education

PROVINCE PROVIDES $8.75M FOR TRADES TRAINING EQUIPMENT

VICTORIA – Public post-secondary institutions are receiving $8.75 million for new equipment that will update and enhance trades training programs around British Columbia, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"B.C.'s surging economy has led to huge demand for tradespeople all over the province, and this funding will help our post-secondary institutions continue to provide first-rate training on modern equipment," Coell said. "We've invested almost $119 million since 2001 in trades training equipment and facilities to help our colleges, university colleges and institutes keep up with today's rapid technological change."

Equipment being funded includes an aviation simulator for Selkirk College in Castlegar, new and better equipment for Vancouver Community College's culinary arts and automotive programs, a diesel engine welder for Camosun College in Victoria, and new equipment for the millwright, power engineering and welding programs at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George.

Another $5 million for new equipment was provided in 2006 to the Trades Training Consortium of B.C., which is made up of the public post-secondary institutions that deliver trades training.

"We've also built and expanded trades and technology campuses in Surrey, Chilliwack, Richmond, Fort St. John, Prince George, Castlegar and Cranbrook as part of our investment in a skilled workforce that can meet our province's needs," Coell said. "This has helped us double the number of trades training spaces we fund throughout British Columbia so every region has access to highly trained tradespeople."

Fifteen of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions offer trades training. This year they provided more than 25,000 trades training spaces, up from about 16,500 in 2001. Government funding of trades training spaces at private institutions has also increased, from just over 1,300 spaces to 4,500 spaces.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUNDER

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TRADES TRAINING EQUIPMENT FUNDING – 2008

Government is providing one-time grants of $8.75 million to 14 public post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. for new trades training equipment:

- **British Columbia Institute of Technology – $1,081,832** – New equipment for the aerospace, avionics, electrical, carpentry, power engineering and machinist programs at BCIT's Burnaby and Richmond campuses.

- **Camosun College – $176,971** – A diesel-engine-driven welder and related equipment for the welding program at Camosun's Interurban campus in Victoria.

- **College of New Caledonia – $905,375** – New equipment for the millwright, power engineering and welding programs in Prince George.

- **College of the Rockies – $156,721** – New equipment for heavy duty mechanics, carpentry, welding and automotive service technician programs in Cranbrook.

- **Kwantlen University College – $696,000** – New equipment and technology upgrades for Kwantlen's horticulture program at the Langley campus; and metal fabrication, electrical and plumbing programs at the Cloverdale Trades and Technology campus.

- **Malaspina University-College – $1,048,883** – New and replacement equipment for heavy equipment operating and industry training, heavy duty and commercial transport and welding programs at the Nanaimo, Cowichan and Powell River campuses.

- **North Island College – $254,199** – Renovations to create an electronics lab and the equipment required for the program; and acquisition and installation of new equipment for the welding, millwright and heavy duty equipment operator programs at the Campbell River campus.

- **Northern Lights College – $890,000** – Equipment for the industrial instrumentation mechanic program in Fort St. John. The other $110,000, from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will be used to develop the Secretariat for the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence, as well as providing equipment for the centre.

- **Northwest Community College – $124,265** – Equipment upgrades for welding programs in Terrace and Prince Rupert.

- **Okanagan College – $565,966** – Equipment for heavy duty mechanics, electrical, welding and plumbing programs in Kelowna.

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- **Selkirk College – $318,594 –** Simulator for the Castlegar aviation campus.

- **Thompson Rivers University – $455,600 –** Mobile trades training unit for trades delivery throughout the region, and replacement and upgrade of equipment in the electrical foundation and apprenticeship programs in Kamloops and Williams Lake.

- **University College of the Fraser Valley – $660,913 –** Equipment for the automotive, trades, welding and heavy duty mechanics programs in Chilliwack.

- **Vancouver Community College – $1,410,000 –** Equipment upgrades for the culinary arts and automotive programs.

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